

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Salinas, California

DATE: August 18, 2015

FROM: Kelly McMillin, Chief of Police

BY: Mike Groves, Police Commander

SUBJECT: **DIRECT PURCHASE OF TASER AXON BODY WORN CAMERAS**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the direct purchase of forty-one (41) Taser Axon body worn cameras through a five-year contract with Taser International, at a total cost of \$216,101.27 with the first year total operating cost at \$61,755.00 and to authorize the future purchase of additional Taser Axon body worn cameras as needed to outfit officers of the Police Department.

DISCUSSION:

The Salinas Police Department is attempting to outfit each officer with a body worn camera to capture events and interactions between officers and the public. The department initially tested three different body cameras from three different vendors. The Taser Axon body worn camera was selected by police staff and approved by a city council resolution on 4-14-15.

The initial purchase of seventy (70) body worn cameras was not enough to cover the entire department, only the uniformed patrol officers at the time of the report. The initial seventy (70) body cameras have been assigned and are being used daily by uniformed officers.

Due to staffing issues, the police department was restructured in the beginning of July and the majority of officers were reassigned back to patrol. The department currently has several officers in a police academy scheduled to graduate in September and more still graduating in December. To outfit the officers who returned to patrol, along with the academy graduates and patrol sergeants, police staff will need to purchase forty-one (41) additional body cameras.

The terms and conditions for this purchase are the same as the first purchase approved by council in April. A five-year contract with Taser International would provide the cameras, base stations and sufficient storage and video management software. At the 2.5-year and 5-year mark, all cameras and equipment would be replaced with new cameras and equipment. During the course of this contract, each officer would receive the initial camera, plus two complete upgrades by the end of the contract.

Due to the cost of the cameras, storage and support issues, police staff does not want a surplus of body cameras and would like to purchase them on an “as-needed” basis. Police staff is requesting

the authority to purchase further Taser Axon body cameras for police personnel as needed. Due diligence will be taken in researching police body cameras to make sure Taser Axon remains an industry leader in this market prior to any future purchases.

City Council has the authority to approve this purchase under Salinas Municipal Code Section 12-27. The City's local purchasing preference does not apply in this instance as there are no local vendors who provide this product or this service.

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council authorize the direct purchase of forty-one (41) Taser Axon body worn cameras from Taser International at a total cost of \$216,101.27 and authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase similar additional cameras in the future on an "as needed" basis subject to available funding?

COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

The first year cost would be \$61,755.00 plus tax.

The second year through the fifth year total cost would be \$34,686.00 per year plus tax. This purchase would be funded through savings anticipated in the current year Police Department budget as a result of salary and benefit savings from vacant police officers positions that were funded with Measure G. No additional appropriation is necessary. Funds will be transferred from the current year operating budget to a new CIP project to cover the cost over the next five years.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

Police staff believes body worn cameras are an important tool in modern policing and will be valuable in improving transparency, accountability and in enhancing community trust; therefore, staff requests immediate action.

ALTERNATIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

Not authorize the purchase proposed in this report and direct staff otherwise how to proceed.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

This purchase supports the Council's goal of maintaining a safe and livable community for all its residents.

CONCLUSIONS:

Staff recommends City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the direct purchase forty-one (41) Taser Axon body worn cameras from Taser International of Scottsdale, Arizona for a total cost of

\$216,101.27 spread out over a 5-year period and grants police staff the authority to purchase additional Taser Axon body cameras as needed.

Distribution:
City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
Department Directors

Back Up Pages:
Resolution
Quote for Taser Body Cameras

RESOLUTION NO. _____(N.C.S.)

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECT PURCHASE OF
TASER BODY WORN CAMERAS**

WHEREAS, body worn cameras are an important tool in modern policing and will be valuable in improving transparency, accountability and in enhancing community trust; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Salinas Police Department to assign each uniformed patrol officer and sergeant a body worn camera; and

WHEREAS, the Salinas Police Department has already purchased and deployed seventy (70) Taser Axon body cameras for officers; and

WHEREAS, Taser International submitted a quote for forty-one (41) Taser Axon body cameras over a five-year contract with a first year cost of \$61,755.00 and years 2-5 cost of \$34,686.00 for a total cost of \$216,101.27 and

WHEREAS, police staff request the authority to purchase additional Taser Axon body cameras as needed for officers; and

WHEREAS, the City Council can approve this purchase pursuant to Salinas Municipal Code Section 12-27 (purchases without notice, advertising or competitive bids) in contracting for equipment, materials, supplies and services.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SALINAS CITY COUNCIL that the Purchasing Officer is hereby authorized to direct purchase forty-one (41) Taser Axon body cameras from Taser International at a total cost of \$216,101.27 over a five year period, to authorize the Finance Director to transfer \$216,200 from current year Measure G personnel saving to a new CIP project, and to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase additional cameras when needed as requested by police staff and subject to the availability of funding.

PASSED AND ADOPTED the 18th of August 2015 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk

